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# ORIGIN

OF

# SPECIFIC MEDICATION.

BY

R. E. KUNZÉ, M. D.,

NEW YORK CITY



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Any further information may be obtained by addressing ROBERT S. NEWTON, Jr., M. D., No. 19 East Thirty-Second Street, New York City. [March, 1879.]

# ORIGIN OF MEDIUM, OR SPECIFIC MEDICATION.

BY RICHARD E. KUNZÉ, M. D.

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The medium system of medicine, with an original *materia medica* to correspond, was the result of vast experience and an independent, candid *exposé* of the fallacies of his time—that of John Martin Honigberger, M. D., a native of Kronstadt, Transylvania, who for thirty-five years practised medicine in the East—Turkey, Syria, Bokhara and Hindostan, during the memorable period, 1815–1850. Dr. Honigberger was an excellent scholar in linguistic attainments, and after graduating, left his old associations in Transylvania, and travelled east by way of the Levant, Egypt, Arabia, Persia and India, and returned by the way of Afghanistan, Bokhara and Russia to his former home, after having made the tour of Europe. For fifteen years he resided in the Punjab (the country of the five rivers), Hindostan, where for many years he was physician to the late Sikh Court of Lahore.

He had several hospitals and dispensaries under his charge, where he had every opportunity to carry his practical thoughts into effect. His whole time was taken up in the investigation of the Indian *materia medica* and that of Europe, by way of drawing comparisons between allopathia, homœopathia, and his medium system.

He was not satisfied with the early result of the two only systems then in vogue, and therefore struck boldly out for himself. After verifying his discoveries in specific medication to a sufficient extent, he published the result of his labors simultaneously in Calcutta, London and New York, 1852. The title of his book read thus: “Thirty-five Years in the East. Adventures, discoveries, experiments, etc., relating to the Punjab and Cashmere, in connection with medicine, botany and pharmacy, together with an original *materia medica*, and a medical vocabulary, in four European and five Eastern languages. Two volumes in one.”

But, like many other smart men, he committed an unpardonable

error in publishing his interesting travels in connection with his observations in clinical medicine and therapeutics in one and the same volume, thus forever burying his discoveries in therapeutics, so that his name is not mentioned even, and the result of many years of toil and patient labor lost on the shelves of geography and literature of travels. His very words may be found, however, in the writings of other men, and it is for the purpose of truth and justice that we introduce many of the fine passages found in the introductory of his noble work. The name of John Martin Honigberger—the pioneer and leader of a complete system of specific medication, which he intended should take a place midway between shortcoming homœopathia and erring allopathia, and which he called the medium system—must henceforth be handed down to posterity, and stand beside the other glorious names of such reformers as Samuel Thomson, Wooster Beach, Hahnemann and Morrow. He has built for himself a monument that will tower as far above the heads of his compeers as the Pyramid of Cheops is loftier than the Sphinx. His words are full of meaning, fire and enthusiasm, displaying the character of the whole souled, sympathetic man. We do not ask for favors in behalf of our overshadowed fellow-worker; no, not that, but broad, impartial justice is due to Dr. John Martin Honigberger. His book of travel covers 200 pages, and the one on *materia medica* 400 more, of octavo size, in which he gives 120 good illustrations of Indian medicinal plants not described elsewhere. We copy from the work in our library:

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDIUM SYSTEM, IN PART.

“The *diagnostics* and *prognostics* of diseases do not come within the scope of my treatise; they have been amply treated by other physicians. I shall restrict myself to *therapeutics*, and communicate various specifics, the efficacy of which I have tried during a long and successful practice.”

“Notwithstanding I am convinced that specifics act not mechanically, but physically, being in connection with maladies (as iron with magnets), and that not the quantity, but the quality of the remedy, produces the desired effect.”

“It is no easy matter to eradicate systems which have been deeply rooted for centuries. Who will take upon himself the re-

sponsibility of a *change* affecting the existence and welfare of myriads of human beings? Accurately expressed, my system can scarcely be called a new one; it is, more properly, a *medium* between two extremes. I regard the *two* medical systems—allopathia and homœopathia—as two opposite poles. The first rushes into the field armed with enormous pills, and bottles of all sizes containing the most powerful mixtures, striking at the foe with wild and deadly force; the other, with less martial display, attacks the enemy in a manner which seems the quintessence of feebleness and inertia: a small case, containing pygmean flasks, filled with Liliputian pills which the least breeze would scatter to the winds, and a few drops, are all the direful weapons."

"My system is a smooth and middle course, following so much only of every other as I have, by the observation of many years, proved useful."

"More individuals perish through the interference of physicians than are saved by their assistance. It was no doubt the defects of the science of healing as practised by allopathists, which induced the immortal Hahnemann to embrace and propagate the doctrine of *similia similibus curantur*. Now I am bound to confess that, in the majority of cases, the results I obtained from homœopathia were not favorable."

"All strong doses are to be avoided, and such only to be administered as, though they may not benefit, yet cannot do any harm."

"As medicine acts more specifically than mechanically, a like quantity of matter produces a like effect in the vaccination of a babe and a giant."

In the selection of these quotations, it has been our sole desire to give precedence to a man who had fully recorded himself in the early advocacy of specific medication. Neither allopathic or homœopathic authorities would do honor and homage to the man who could, in such a convincing manner, depict the fallacies of either school in favor of his medium system. At this very day the great mass of followers of Hahnemann's doctrines do not, and could not, conscientiously practise the law of *similia*. The liberal allopath and eclectic alike are ever profiting from the experience of another than their own school.

The medical world has accorded the discovery of anæsthesia, as by common consent, to Wells, Morton and Jackson ; but it remained for Dr. J. Marion Sims, of New York, to say and prove that Crawford W. Long, M. D., of Athens, Ga., was the discoverer of anæsthesia more than two years in advance of everybody else.

Dr. Honigberger says, that physicians ought to prepare the medicines they prescribe, or, at all events, to *see* them prepared, never trusting their prescriptions to ordinary apothecaries. He divides all medicines into three classes :

Class I., containing milder plants, earths, charcoals, salts, metals, and the weaker vegetable acids.

Class II., containing acrid plants, some of the crystallized vegetable acids, mild chemical preparations, and such remedies which are usually given in doses of *grains*, ordinarily speaking.

Class III., containing all matters denominated poisons—animal, vegetable, mineral—as strong acids, etc., which are generally administered in doses of *less than a grain*, such as morphia, hydrocyanic acid, etc.

Remedies of the first class he administered in doses of from 1-25th to 1-5th of a grain ; those of the second class in doses of from 1-50th to 1-25th of a grain ; and those of the third class in doses of from 1-100th to 1-50th of a grain.

All medicines are recommended to be made into tinctures or triturations, with sugar, and made into powders or lozenges.

Time forbids going into any other details of Dr. Honigberger's medium system, and we now present some of the remedies not generally found in works on therapeutics, and which represent a few only of many hundreds experimented on by that author, namely :

#### *Vegetable substances :*

*Aconitum heterophyllum*, root ; tonic and aphrodisiac pectorals ; it is used by the Hakims. *Ajuga decumbens*, herb ; used in gastralgia, headache and boils. *Althernanthera sessilis*, root and herb ; for toothache and headache. *Anagallis cœrulea*, herb ; for epistaxis and headache. *Areca Catechu*, nuts ; astringent, masticatory and stomachic ; used by Hakims. *Basella rubra*, leaves ; used for costiveness and syphilitic ulceration of fauces. *Arisæma gracile*, tuber-acrid ; antidote to animal poisons, against asthma, ulcers, indura-

tions; used by Hakims. (Resembles our arum triphyllum.) *Carissa Carandas*, leaves or fruit, against diarrhoea, ear-ache, syphilitic and spinal pains. *Cleome pentaphylla*, herb and seed; used for ulcerated fauces and throat, bleeding haemorrhoids, etc. *Corchorus fructicosus*, herb; for fistulous sores, urinary disorders and quotidian ague. *Curcuma longa* is used for colic, dysuria, emaciation, inflammation of the throat, etc. *Datisca Cannabina*, bark of root; for inflammatory swellings, toothache and pain in the knee. *Eleagnus augustifolius*, leaves and fruit; used in fever, opacity of the cornea and itching. *Embryopteris glutinifera* (diospyros), leaves and fruit; for spinal pains, impotency, and for colic the seed is used. *Eugenia Jambolina*, bark, for spinal pains; fruit, for bubonocele and giddiness. *Euphorbia Agraria*, root, is used in diarrhoea, dysuria, eruptions and spinal pains. *E. longifolia*, root; for contortion of facial muscles, oppressions and pains in the feet. *E. tenius*, herb; for spinal pains and thirst. *E. verrucosa*, root; for expectoration of mucus, herpes and oedematous swellings. *Fagonia Arabica*, herb; for hemiplegia, obscurity of vision, and spermatorrhoea. *Galega purpurea*, root; it is used in dyspepsia, lientery, tympanitis; Hakims gives it. *Geranium nodosum*, root; for inflation, soreness of the mouth. *Geum elatum*, root; used in epistaxis, dysentery, boils and ophthalmia. *Glinus dictamnoides*, herb; used in catarrh, pain in joints and tenesmus. *Grewia Asiatica*, fruit; for cough, itching and syphilitic pains. *Guilandina Bonducella*, nuts; used in acute eruptions, enlarged spleen, ulcers, oedematous and syphilitic swellings. *Hedychium spicatum*, root; it has warm and pungent properties; used by Hakims. *Hemidesmus Indicus*, root; used for gaseous eructation, flatus, syphilitic and cutaneous eruptions. *Heracleum diversifolium*, root; used in syphilis. *Hibiscus Trionum*, herb; for prurigo. *Indigofera Anil*, herb; used in inflammation of liver. *Ipomoea cœrulea*, seed; for flatus. *I. cuspidata*, leaves; for pain in right side. *I. dasysperma*, seed; it is used for epistaxis and night blindness. *Justicia Nasuta*, flowers; they are employed in colic, constipation, diarrhoea, otitis and specks of the cornea. *Kali Salsola*, or, more properly, *Salsola Kali*, herb; it is used in sick headache, scalding of urine and spermatorrhoea. *Leucas cephalotes*, herb; for dry mouth, vomiting. *Limonia Laureola* is used in hydrocele and specks of the cornea. *Lippia nodiflora*, herb; employed

in constipation, ischuria, and pain in the knee-joint. *Meconopsis Nepalensis*, root; for troubled sight. *Melia Azedarachta*, leaves; used in diarrhoea, hemeralopia, nyctalopia and haemoptysis. *Melia semperiens*, leaves; used for colic; seed for ague. *Methonica gloriosa*, root; it is used in impotency, epistaxis, spermatorrhoea, thirst, and vomiting. *Mulgedium ranunculoides*, bark and leaves. *Nardostachys Jatamansi* is given for inflammation of fauces and throat, spinal pains, thoracic pain and vomiting. *Nelumbium speciosum* flowers; are used for dryness of the mouth and throat, and syphilis of a primary or a secondary character. *Nepeta salviæfolia*, root; used in gastral-gia and prurigo. *Nerium odorum*, root; used in asthma. *Ocimum album*, herb; it is given in dysury, tonsilitis, nasal catarrh and spermatorrhoea. *O. sanctum*, root; for pain in the ear and chest, with cough and asthma. *Onosma macrocephala*, flowers and roots; used in coryza, giddiness, prurigo and psoriasis. *Phaseolus radiatus*, seed; is given in anorexia. *Physalis flexuosa*, root and seed; given in diarrhoea, fever and biliary vomiting. *Picrorrhiza Kurrooa*, root; employed in sciatica, diarrhoea, lichen and swellings. *Plectranthus aromaticus*, leaves; used in catarrhal discharge of eyes and nose; also, soreness of mouth. *Podophyllum Emodi*, fruit; given for constipation. *Polyanthes tuberosa*, seed; given for eructation of acid, scalding urine and constipation. *Polygonum macrophyllum*, root; it is used against expectoration, pyrosis, obscurity of vision and odontalgia. *Ranunculus lanuginosus*, whole plant, in mercurio-syphilitic swellings, gouty pains and ophthalmia. *Rhus coriaria*, fruit; is used in expectoration and haemoptysis. *Rubia Munjista*, root; recommended in coryza, fever, vomiting and thoracic pains. *Sapium Indicum*, nuts; employed in headache and tenesmus. *Saxifraga Peshant*, root; used in coryza and general pains. *Senecio Musuca*, herb; given for coryza, expectoration, haemoptysis, giddiness and headache.

*Sisymbrium Irio*, seed; used in haemoptysis, gastral-gia and pain, with fever. *Stenactis bellidioides*, root; it is used in borborygmus, *Trianthemum pentandrium*, herb; employed in diarrhoea, spinal pains, headache and in tenesmus. *Tribulus lanuginosus*, leaves; for soreness of mouth and throat, also splenic pain. *Umbellifera Butazeri*, root; good for caries of teeth. *Verbena officinalis*, herb and seed; used in nasal inflammation, ague, syphilis and thoracic

pains. *Villarsia nymphæoides*, leaves; used in periodic headache *Zizyphus Jujuba*, fruit and germ; administered in diarrhœa, colic and itching of skin.

The following substances, except when otherwise stated, were given in the form of tincture, and were tried by Dr. Honigberger out of curiosity as well as for original research. He claims very good results from the use of nearly all of them, however strange it may seem. Some of them had previously been used, others for the first time.

*Animal Substances.*—*Anguineum*, a tincture made from the trituration of the virus of *Aspis Naja* (cobra) and from *Aspidoclonion semifasciatum*; also called *serpentis virus præparatum*. Used for rumbling of the bowels.

*Araneum* (aranea diadema), a tincture made from spider's web. Recommended for lippitude, pterygium, giddiness with obscured vision, and also for diarrhœa.

*Cataracteum*.—A tincture prepared from an opaque crystalline lens, which is first triturated with sugar and then dissolved in proof spirit. It is recommended for incipient cataract and troubled sight, with catarrh.

*Exuviae*.—A tincture of serpent's slough or skin, which is given for manifold pains, fever, herpes, psoriasis, syphilis, ptyalism, and dryness of mouth and throat.

*Leporineum*.—Tincture of hare's (*lepus timidus*) blood, is used for expectoration of blood and shifting pains. The Hakims use the rennet, bile, blood, hair, skin, teeth and excrement of the hare.

*Locusteum*.—A tincture made from *locusta migratoria* or locust, which was used for bleeding piles and thirst. The bodies of these locusts are salted and eaten by the Arabs and Mussulmen of Lahore.

*Piscineum*.—Tincture of fish gall, is given for colic, phrenitis, swellings, thirst and vomiting.

*Nycterideum*.—Tincture of bat's (*nycteris*) blood, recommended in fever, frontal pains and swelled glands.

*Sanguis Bovis*.—Pulv. bullock's blood, which is first dried, then powdered, and in such a form administered in anæmia infantilis with very good results.

*Scorpioneum*.—The tincture prepared from the virus of *scorpius*,

which is used for hæmaturia, dysuria, dracunculus, expectoration and obscurity of vision.

*Tigrineum*.—A trituration made from the whiskers of the tiger (supposed by some to contain virus), which was given in flatulency and gripes, with diarrhoea.

*Castoreum*, *Blatta orientalis* (cockroach), *moschus*, *rana esculenta* (frogs as food, recommended to those troubled with hæmorrhoids; the spawn once used as purifying and cooling). *Scincus* or *lacerta*, *scincus L.*, used by the Eastern doctors in leprosy, and in America the gland of *mephitis* (American skunk) is used for asthma. *Scolopendra morsitans* (centipede) are also used in medicine. And why not? Are not *cantharides* (Spanish flies), *doryphora decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), and *apis mellifica* (honey bee), used medicinally too? Do not hundreds of consumptives insatiate themselves daily with warm bullock's blood at our public slaughter houses, at the recommendation of physicians of the highest standing? Does not *telea Aranæ*, or cobweb, as a febrifuge, engage the attention of the "Old School" at considerable extent, even at the present moment? Does not the drug trade of the port of New York advertise fresh invoices of *blatta orientalis* (cockroaches all the way from Russia), in the leading journals for the year 1878? And if there were no consumption of powdered cockroaches by the learned and illiterate of this enlightened country, why the supply? And while some of our nabobs would turn up their noses in disgust at the idea of American Indians living and feasting on grasshoppers, they themselves or their families might be treated at the very same time to powdered, perhaps saccharated cockroaches, without making a wry face thereat. Indeed, where ignorance is bliss, it would be folly to be wise.

#### SPECIFIC MEDICATION.

As an American outgrowth of and improvement on the Hahnemannian system of homœopathy, there has recently appeared upon the field of Reform medicine an innovation called *Specific Medication*—that is, a system more devoted to simple medication, and endeavoring to bring into use a direct remedy for every pathological condition. John M. Scudder, M. D., has done much to get this waif christened, which had heretofore been looked upon and con-

sidered as a step-child of various other systems of medicine. Dr. Honigberger's *Medium System*, already mentioned, is essentially aiming at, and must be accepted as the same thing, just as much so as the Siamese twins were one and the same entity.

The theory of *Specific Medication* is rather calculated to do in the place of homœopathy, with the liberal adherents of allopathia and homœopathia of the present day. Those of our Eclectics who did not have a hand in the earlier and unpolished system of Eclectic medicine, which recognized many old fashioned compounds and nostrums, as well as simples in the treatment of the sick, desirous of making themselves heard and felt, took a lead in this new change. Some of them remind us of many small boys who are always on hand where commotion and noise are loudest. Yet, for all that, specific medication has done a great deal toward a more careful study of our *Materia Medica*. Its opponents had to "brush up" in order to meet many fine points which arose and had to be criticized. And if its advocates do not succeed as admirably as their sanguine expectations led them to hope, they then have the alternative still, as most of the homœopathists have taught us, to give anything and everything wherewith to combat disease. But, is not honesty the best policy?

The introduction of pleasant medication, so much admired by the patrons of homœopathy, did much in retarding the ascendancy of Eclecticism at a time when a better basis should have been laid for our system of medicine. With the advent of specific medication, it must be confessed that Eclecticism has met with renewed favor by the people. From the fact that our physicians are enabled to control any fever in from twenty-four to forty-eight hours with a few well-timed and small doses of tinct. veratrum viride or aconitum, and can readily control the infantile convulsions depending on dentition or entozoa with several quick repeated potions of tinct. gelsemium or lobelia combined, it is gratifying to know that much of the ground lost has been retrieved.

From the small doses used, many have been led to believe that we too practice homœopathy, which has not been detrimental to the success of our practitioners. The readiness with which Eclectics circumscribe erysipelatous inflammation, by a few applications of tinct. verat. viride to the parts, and the speedy relief which

follows in the cases of bilious colic, from a few doses of our tinct. *dioscorea villosa*, *xanthoxylum* and *gelsemium*, have won for us the former confidence of the people. Much of our success depends upon the quality of medicines used; and it is now demonstrated that our tinctures, carefully prepared from the fresh plant while still green, have furnished us with surer and better means than tinctures prepared as of old. While we do not claim to have introduced all the plants mentioned, we nevertheless, by taking hold and trying them unremittingly, assert that we certainly have been instrumental in popularizing many of the best American drugs now in use. And venesection, cupping, blistering and mercurializing, relics of a former barbarous system, fought as they have been by us too, are now but little tolerated by a thinking community.

In the treatment of the sick, we find it much safer and of lasting benefit to our patients to follow a conservative course of medication. We know how to relieve the tumid veins by stimulating endosmosis and exosmosis. Determination and apoplectic conditions are relieved by ligating the large extremities close to the trunk, thus preventing too great a flow of blood to the head, thereby obviating the former extraction of blood. The timely exhibition of alkalies in the treatment of inflammatory diseases will speedily arrest the further progress of the malady, and acids, exhibited in fever, are as likely to reduce it to a minimum condition as any other method.

*Asclepias tuberosa*, is an old and well tried specific for pleuritis. If combined with *veratrum viride*, in alternate doses, it will abort every case of pneumonia. We prefer the use of an infusion of the former to any other preparation. *Cereus Bonplandii*, *C. grandiflorus*, and other species, act specifically in angina pectoris and palpitation. *Belladonna* is a positive drug for scarlatina and pertussis. *Baptisia*, likewise in the former, when throat symptoms demand antiseptic treatment. *Drosera rotundifolia* will remove the cough of measles, and *lobelia*, the spasmodic attacks of asthma. *Phytolacca decandra* will abort the worst form of mammitis and hasten suppuration when too far advanced, and with *lobelia seed*, combined and applied as poultice, without any other treatment. *Phosphorus* and *nux vomica* act specifically in typhoid conditions. For dysmenorrhœa we give, with certain success, *viburnum opulus*,

and in threatening abortion, *V. prunifolium*. In certain forms of paralysis, *xanthoxylum fraxineum* is a specific remedy. *Apocynum*, in dropsy; *cimicifuga*, in rheumatism; *erigeron*, in uterine hemorrhage, as well as *ergota* for the same; *hydrangea*, in calculus; *leptandra* and *podophyllum*, in obstruction of the liver, might be cited as additional evidences of direct or specific medication.

Really, *specific medication* is not a new feature. It is an old cause figured anew in a change of garb, and a straggling waif of every other school. That it tends to advance homœopathic propensities is not at all astonishing, when considered that even Hahnemann held similar views. In the 147th paragraph of his *Organon*, Hahnemann states, with unmistakable clearness, "that the remedy, which is truly homœopathic to the disease, is the specific remedy in this particular case."

Other shining lights of homœopathy have even shared stronger views of the same theory. Professor Charles J. Hempel—a gentleman now living in the crystallized age of eighty, at Grand Rapids, Mich.—twenty-five years ago published his *Organon of Specific Homœopathy*. He says: "Inasmuch as each drug is specifically different from every other, it follows that each has specific therapeutic uses to fulfil toward the organism in a state of disease." And in his introductory the following passage occurs: "Specific homœopathic remedies do not necessarily achieve a cure in every case. Even specifics will fail of curing when the reactive energies of the organism are entirely destroyed; but specific remedies accomplish a cure in every case where a cure is possible, and much more speedily, safely and thoroughly than any other medicine could do." As a competent critic, Hempel is entitled to much respect when saying, "It is to be hoped that the time is fast approaching when homœopathy will cease to be a science of inglorious illusions, and when the living, unerring truths of experience and reason will be substituted in their stead." Professor Hempel showed but little regard for symptom hunters, which he was fond of stigmatizing "high attenuationists."

From the evidence elicited, it must be conceded that *John Martin Honigberger* had long ago advocated *Specific Medication*.

# THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC,

DEVOTED TO

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DEVOTED TO

THE INVESTIGATION AND TREATMENT OF CANCER,  
AND  
ALLIED CONDITIONS.

48 PAGES.

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